

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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P R 281530Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2902

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG-OCO PRIORITY

CINCUSAFAE FOR POLAD & OPS PRIORITY

USEMLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE

SUBJECT: SPECIAL GDR CONTROLS ON TRANSIT ROUTES

REF: BERLIN 156, BERLIN 160

1. SPECIAL EAST GERMAN CONTROLS JAN 26 ON TRANSIT

ROUTES DREW SHARP REACTIONS FROM GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ

AND WEST BERLIN POLITICAL LEADERS. SCHUETZ TOLD PRESS

"THE INCIDENTS ON TRANSIT ROUTES MUST BE TAKEN

SERIOUSLY, BUT IF SOMEONE IN THE GDR LEADERSHIP

ACTED IRRATIONALITY IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR US TO ACT

IN THE SAME WAY.... HOWEVER, THE SENAT AND FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT COULD NOT PERMIT THAT THERE BE ANY DOUBT

ABOUT THE CENTRAL CORE OF THE QA, THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT."

BOTH CDU AND FDP FRAKTION LEADERS CHARGED THAT

ACTIONS WERE IN VIOLATION OF QA, AND CDU FRAKTION

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LEADER LUMMER CALLED FOR MEETING OF QA SIGNATORIES.

2. PRIVATELY, SENAT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN
OVER POSSIBILITY THAT GDR ACTIONS MIGHT BE FIRST STEP
OF GDR RESPONSE TO ESTABLISHMENT, FRG ENVIRONMENT OFFICE
IN BERLIN. HOWEVER, WHEN GDR WITHDREW SPECIAL CONTROLS
BY SUNDAY, JAN 27, OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT RELAXED.
SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HERZ TOLD MISSION OFFICER
JAN 28 THAT BRANDT AND SCHUETZ AGREED AT JAN 27 MEETING

IN BERLIN (BRANDT WAS ON PRIVATE VISIT) TO KEEP EYE
ON SITUATION AND SEEK INFORMATION THROUGH TRANSIT
AGREEMENT COMMISSION, AS WELL AS OTHER CHANNELS,
ABOUT GDR MOTIVATION. HERZ ASKED THAT ALLIES ALSO
SEEK INFORMATION FROM SOVIETS ABOUT REASONS BEHIND
GDR ACTIONS.

3. IN MONDAY'S EDITORIALS, SPRINGER PRESS CITED GDR
ACTIONS AS INDICATION THAT BRANDT'S OSTPOLITIK HAD
FAILED, AND PRO-SPD SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT CALLED
DIFFICULTIES TEST FOR QA.

4. POLICE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY WEST BERLINER WHO
VISITED HALLE OVER WEEKEND THAT HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW,
WHO HAS CONNECTIONS IN NVA, SAID THAT CONTROLS WERE
ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH SEARCH FOR TWO EAST
GERMAN SOLDIERS, WHO DESERTED WITH MACHINE PISTOLS AND
AMMUNITION. WHILE WE CANNOT EVALUATE ACCURACY OF
THIS REPORT, PATTERN OF GDR ACTIVITY WAS CONSISTENT
WITH SEARCH FOR ARMED FUGITIVES.

5. BRITISH ARE PROTESTING TO SOVIETS AT CHECKPOINT
ALPHA DELAYS TO THEIR TWO TRAVELLERS JANUARY 26

6 COMMENT: INASMUCH AS EAST GERMANS CANNOT BE
EXPECTED TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE ON MOTIVATION FOR MASSIVE
SEARCH OPERATION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL RECEIVE
STRAIGHT ACCOUNT AS TO THEIR MOTIVATIONS. THERE ARE* SUFFICIENT INDICATORS TO SUGGEST MOST PROBABLE OBJECTIVE
WAS SEARCH FOR ONE OR MORE PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE
DANGEROUS. IT WAS, HOWEVER, INEVITABLE THAT EVENTS WOULD BE
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LINKED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH THREATS AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT
OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN BERLIN (AND FEDERAL
PRESENCE IN GENERAL), AND EVEN IF GDR DID NOT STAGE
ITS ASSERTION OF AUTHORITY ON AUTOBAHN FOR THIS PURPOSE,
IT MAY WELL SEE IMPRESSION TO THIS EFFECT AS WINDFALL
BENEFIT, WHICH IT IS PROBABLY NOT UNHAPPY TO HAVE GET
AROUND. OVERREACTION BY WEST BERLINERS AND WEST GERMANS,
WHICH WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CHECK IN OUR PRIVATE
CONVERSATIONS, HAS TENDED TO PLAY INTO GDR HANDS. RISK,

AS ONE SPD LEADER PUT IT, IS THAT SOME CIRCLES MAY
NOW BE MOVED TO CONSIDER FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN REGARD
TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, WHICH COULD ONLY EXACERBATE
THIS ALREADY MUCH-CONFUSED AND CLUMSIL* HANDLED ISSUE.

7. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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